

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable tissue stimulating device ~~comprising~~ comprising:
an elongate carrier member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a plurality of electrodes mounted thereon between said proximal and distal ends, the elongate carrier member having at least a first lumen extending at least partially through the elongate carrier member; and therethrough, the elongate carrier member further including one or more optic fibres positioned along a length of said at least a first lumen:
an optic fiber stiffening element comprising one or more optic fibers configured to bias the elongate carrier member into a first configuration when disposed in said at least a first lumen,
and
wherein the elongate carrier member is configured to assume a second configuration during or after removal of the optic fiber stiffening element.
2. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue stimulating device of claim 1, further comprising: a cochlear electrode array;
a cochlear implant electrode assembly comprising the elongate carrier member and the plurality of electrodes.
3. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue stimulating device of claim 2 wherein the one or more optic fibres fibers are configured to facilitate at least one of illumination and visualization or allow a user to illuminate and/or visualise an area of the cochlea a cochlea during or prior to surgery and wherein further, said one or more optic fibres are removably positioned within said at least a first lumen.
4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue stimulating device of claim 4 claim 1 wherein at least one of said plurality of ~~the one or more~~ optic fibres ~~fibers facilitates~~ allows illumination of a surgical site and at least ~~another of the one or more optic fibers facilitates~~ a further optic fibre allows a user to visualise said surgical site.

6. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue stimulating device of claim 2 wherein the elongate carrier member has a first configuration selected to allow facilitates insertion of said elongate carrier member to be inserted into the cochlea into a cochlea, and at least a ~~wherein the~~ second configuration facilitates application of ~~wherein said elongate carrier member is adapted to~~ apply a preselected tissue stimulation ~~[[with]]~~ via the electrodes mounted on the carrier member, said elongate carrier member being made of a resiliently flexible first material.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue stimulating device of claim 3 wherein upon removal of the one or more optic ~~fibers~~ fibres, the at least a first lumen is configured for ~~aets as a~~ drug delivery ~~channel~~.

10. (Previously Presented) The implantable tissue stimulating device of claim 1 wherein the elongate carrier member has a resiliently flexible tip member extending forwardly from the distal end of the elongate carrier member, said tip member being light permeable and hemispherical in form.

11. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue stimulating device of claim 10 wherein the tip member acts as a lens and is configured to facilitate ~~at least one of~~ allows illumination and/or and visualisation of a region at least adjacent the tip member of the elongate carrier member.

12-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 19~~ claim 40 wherein a surgeon manipulates the elongate carrier member to avoid trauma to the tissues of the cochlea.

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 21~~ claim 45 wherein the stimulator means is positioned within a housing that is implanted within an implantee ~~the implantee~~ and wherein the housing contains in addition to the stimulator means, a receiver means to receive control signals from a controller means, said controller means mounted external to the body of the implantee such that the control signals are transmitted transcutaneously through the implantee.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 wherein the controller signals travel from the controller means to the receiver means and vice versa.

24-38. (Cancelled)

39. (New) A method of implanting an implantable tissue stimulating device comprising an elongate carrier member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a plurality of electrodes mounted thereon between said proximal and distal ends; the elongate carrier member also having at least a first lumen extending at least partially through the elongate carrier member; the method comprising:

- accessing an implantation site;
- biasing the elongate carrier member into a first configuration using one or more optic fibers as a stiffening element within the elongate carrier member;
- advancing the elongate carrier member into the implantation site; and
- using the one or more optic fibers to facilitate at least one of illumination and visualization of a region adjacent the elongate carrier member.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein advancing the elongate carrier member into the implantation site comprises:

advancing the elongate carrier member into a cochlea.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein using the one or more optic fibers to facilitate at least one of illumination and visualization of a region adjacent the elongate carrier member comprises:

using the one or more optic fibers to facilitate at least one of illumination and visualization of a region of an interior of the cochlea.

42. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

causing the elongate carrier member to assume a second configuration by at least partially removing the one or more optic fibers from the elongate carrier member.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the first configuration is a straight configuration, and

wherein the second configuration is a curved configuration.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the second configuration is a spiral configuration.

45. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein a stimulator means is configured to provide stimulation signals to the electrodes of the elongate carrier member, and

wherein the stimulator means is electrically connected to the elongate carrier member via an electrical lead.

46. (New) The implantable tissue stimulating device of claim 6, wherein the first configuration is a straight configuration, and

wherein the second configuration is a curved configuration.

47. (New) The implantable tissue stimulating device of claim 46, wherein the second configuration is a spiral configuration.